has been made by Government to know how far it has helped the disabled persons in the country in receiving higher education and employment opportunities, to lead reasonably respectable life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the deficiencies, if any, identified in implementation of the Act; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission has issued guidelines to all Universities for compliance of the provisions of the Persons with Disability Act 1995. These include reservations in admission and in employment. Barrier free access to physically challenged persons has also been emphasized.

Literacy in Census-2001

3608. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the overall literacy rate as per the Census-2001; and

(b) the steps contemplated to further improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) As per the Census-2001 (Provisional Report) the overall literacy rate is 65.38 percent.

(b) Government is following a two pronged approach to improve the position of literacy. These are:

* Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a holistic and convergent approach to implement universalisation of Elementary Education.
* National Literacy Mission to provide functional literacy to the illiterates in 15-35 age group.